

Agreement WM-GM-087
Quarterly Report
October 1, 2006

Report Period

Pursuant to the agreement, this report covers the activities of the Clark Fork Task Force for the period of July through September 30, 2006.

Task Force Activities

Task Force Meetings - During this period, the Task Force met three times, on July 6, August 7, and September 11, 2006. I arranged, facilitated, and summarized each of these meetings. Highlights from the meetings follow. The complete summary of each meeting is attached below in Appendix 1. On September 25, 2006, I attended a meeting between Mary Sexton and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) officials and Bill MacDonald, Director of the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR's) Pacific Northwest Region, and BOR staff. The meeting discussed the state's interest in Hungry Horse water, an overview of the Hungry Horse project, and the BOR contracting process. The Task Force also held the first of two ground water conferences, this one dealing with technical issues, on September 27, 2006. The agenda for this conference and a list of its attendees is attached as Appendix 2.

July 6, 2006 - The Task Force heard an update on the state's implementation of HJR 3, the Hungry Horse resolution. The Tribes have written Mary Sexton that they would be willing to send a representative to observe a meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation to discuss the process for responding to a state request for a contract for Hungry Horse water. The Task Force continued planning for the ground water technical and policy conferences, reviewing the draft agendas and groups of people to invite. Jack Stults discussed regional water quality related activities by the four Pacific Northwest states. I previewed my report to the Environmental Quality Council on Task Force activities. Mike McLane reported on the most recent meeting of the DNRC Ground Water-Surface Water Working Group.

August 7, 2006 - The Task Force learned that Governor Schweitzer had sent a letter to Bill MacDonald requesting a meeting with the BOR about contracting for water from Hungry Horse. The Task Force finalized the list of speakers for the September 27, 2006 technical ground water conference. Finally, it began a discussion of a possible policy paper on the status of the first-in-time, first-in-right water allocation and management system.

September 11, 2006 - The Task Force discussed membership and staffing changes. Brian Marotz, Brian Marotz, a Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks fishery biologist based in Kalispell, described how the Clark Fork-Hungry Horse system used to be operated and MFWP's operational goals for it from a fishery perspective. Mike McLane reported on the final recommendations of the DNRC Ground Water-Surface Water Working Group.